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Ration shops in the Vizagapatam district.

* 200 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the number of ration shops in the Vizagapatam district run by merchants and co-operative stores in 1946–47;

(b) how many ration shops have been transferred from merchants to co-operative societies in 1946–47 on account of their faults or for no fault of theirs; and

(c) in the case of the merchants whose shops have been transferred to the co-operative societies for no fault of their own, whether the Government propose to order their restoration to the merchants?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) Number of shops run by merchants was 2,082 and that by Co-operative Stores 172.

" (b) 63.

" (c) No; unless the societies who took over the shops prove themselves incompetent or unsatisfactory."

No. 3 Ration shop in the Poonamallee Panchayat area.

* 201 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether on 1st September 1947 the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspected No. 3 ration shop in Poonamallee Panchayat area;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner detected one bag of rice in excess of what the accounts could show;

(c) whether the ration shop agent was unable to explain the surplus;

(d) whether the Deputy Commissioner has ordered strong action against the shop agent on 13th September 1947; and

(e) what action was taken in the matter?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (a) The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies (Central) inspected ration shop No. 104/46 (Branch No. 3) in Poonamallee on 3rd July 1947 and not on 1st September 1947.

" (b) An excess of 35 measures of rice was detected.

" (c) The explanation of the retailer was not considered satisfactory.

" (d) The Collector of Chingleput was asked to take suitable action against the retailer.

" (e) The retail dealer was punished by forfeiture of Rs. 20 out of his security deposit, and was also severely warned."

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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that this is not an isolated case; in fact there are several ration shops doing blackmarketing in rice? " (Laughter).

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is only such of those as are caught that are prosecuted."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIKAR :—" Are Government confident that after decontrol markets will not become jet black? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know what the hon. Member means. If he means that the market is already black and decontrol will make it blacker still, I can understand. But I do not know whether it is jet black or light black."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think this question of colour may be discussed day after to-morrow."

Plans for the expansion of the transmission and distribution lines of electricity.

* 202 *Q.*—SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the plans for expansion of the transmission and distribution lines of electricity stating the districts to be served by them and the villages to be served thereunder and towns, etc.;

(*b*) at what stage is the investigation of a hydro-electric site in Lammasinghi and Chettipet and when, if at all, will it mature to a plan;

(*c*) at what stage of progress is the Madura Thermal Scheme sanctioned by the Government in April 1946—how much has been spent thereon;

(*d*) whether a 4,000 K.W. set planned originally for erection at Nayudupet was diverted to another place; if so to which place; and whether the diversion was recouped; if not when is it proposed to recoup the same;

(*e*) whether the boilers (80,000 lb.) ordered for extensions to Madras Electric Supply Corporation have arrived and whether they have been utilized, and if so how; and

(*f*) whether generating sets therefor have been also obtained and, if so, whether these have been fitted up?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) to (*f*) Attention is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the ryots or villagers who require power are required to guarantee a certain percentage of return before connections are given or before lines are laid?"

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 299–302 infra.